

Mike's Minutes

What's a fella to do? Shorts and T-shirt yesterday, long sleeves, long pants, polar fleece today. If you recall I started last month's newsletter with complaints about the weather too. I believe it was our favorite son Will Rogers who said, "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma, wait a minute." He was certainly right this year! So why is the weather such a big topic of conversation around here? Because it impacts so greatly on what we do, where our passion lies. Not only does it hurt our business (and yours perhaps) but as a water gardener, it makes it doubly difficult to clean and prepare for a Spring that may or may not be around the corner; to enjoy your water feature; or to even build a water feature for those who have waited patiently all Winter to start digging. Is there a silver lining? There almost always is, we'll just have to look for it. If you see it, post it to our Facebook page or email me so I can share it with everyone. The only one I can think of is that algae doesn't grow as prolifically in lower temperatures.

I know one thing we all need to think about is the health of our fish. This is the time of the year when we really need to be aware of what is happening in our ponds. Your fish have been virtually dormant all Winter long and as their metabolism slows down they eventually may experience a weakened immune system. This is especially true if you haven't addressed your water quality all Winter (and we all have a hard time with this). However, the bacteria in the pond haven't been dormant and they are thriving. Some theorize that this collision of weakened immunity and active *Aeromonas* bacteria can cause several problems in your fish. As you do your Spring cleaning it is a good time to look your fish over and note especially if they suffer from a reddening of the gills or red, almost bloody looking spots near the tail, behind the gills or around the fins. These may be early warning signs of a bacterial infection. The best way to prevent bacterial outbreaks is to keep a clean, healthy pond. It is impossible to eliminate bacteria completely from the water so it is important to insure the environment is kept to the highest standard so your fish have the least amount of stress. We are not fish veterinarians and if you call us with fish ailments, we will most likely refer you to Dr. Erik Johnson's website, www.koivet.com. It is very comprehensive and Dr. Johnson IS a koi vet so you can rely on what he says or shows on his site. We have both bacterial and fungal medications, salt and medicated food but that's about the extent of our medical help for you. It's a little like calling your doctor with a description of your symptoms, he probably won't diagnose you that way either. We know they have become pets and you care about them so we'll help all we can but remember our knowledge and resources are limited.....Mike



Tips and Tricks

The balancing act you need to maintain your pond water has basically three components: Circulation and filtration; Aeration; and water management. We'll cover all three of them here briefly and more in depth at our May 18th Class. Without circulation your water will stratify and stagnate. It should circulate once per hour, a minimum of once every two hours. There are lots of different filters available but for good pond health, look for both mechanical and biological filtration. Using an aerator will help you maintain a good level of dissolved oxygen in your pond which helps with circulation, fish health, plant health and good bacterial growth which helps lessen the algae growth in your pond. Water management may be one of the most overlooked aspects of water quality management. Most of us just wait until some water has evaporated before we add any new water. During the heat of the Summer, this may be sufficient but for great water quality, consider establishing a regular schedule of water replacement. Remember, 'the solution to pollution is dilution.'

Water Garden Club Meetings

Tulsa 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30pm Tulsa Garden Ctr
www.gcwgs.com for more info
OKC 2nd Wednesday @ 7:00pm Will Rogers
www.wgso.org for more info
Stillwater 3rd Monday @ 7:00pm
www.stillwaterwatergardens.org for more info
Duncan 1st Tuesday @ 7:00pm Red River Tech
580-595-0842 for more info
If you have a water garden club let us know so we
can advertise it here for you.

Awww, c'mon, like us on Facebook

You know you want to.



For future class schedules,
go to www.pondproshop.com

The Water Garden Capital of Oklahoma!

Free Classes - SPRING/SUMMER 2013 SCHEDULE

Check the schedule for start times. All classes are free and open to the public. No advance registration required. More classes added each month. Ten Pond Dollars awarded for each class. We train rain or shine in the only indoor pond training facility in the U.S.

**May
18th
10:00am**

Plants, Fish, and Algae

Come see how the "big" three work in your pond. We'll answer your questions about how to care for your fish, how to divide and replant your plants and what to do when algae rears it's ugly head.

**June 1st
10:00am**

Pond Build

Our experienced crew will show you step-by-step how to build the water feature of your dreams in your backyard. We'll have the dirt work all done and then lead you through the steps one-by-one. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and get all the information you need to be a success. Come find out how easy it really is.

**June
15th
10:00am**

Pondless Build

Like the sound of water tumbling over rocks and want to enjoy that sound in your yard, but you don't really care about having fish in a pond? Then this is the class for you. This waterfall and stream don't have a pond at the bottom; the water just magically disappears.

Atlantic Water Gardens Triton 2 Ionizer



Atlantic's Triton 2 Ionizer has an all new modular design that is at the cutting edge of innovation, with tool-less, seamless integration with our Triton Check Valve! Safe for animals and plants and unaffected by sunlight and heat, this mineralized water maintains a residual ability to treat organics, greatly reducing the need for chemical treatments.

- Safe for fish and plants
- Low maintenance
- Clears water without the use of harsh chemicals
- Level of mineralization is controlled by the LED panel
- Treats ponds up to 25,000 gallons
- Easily installed in any new or existing water feature
- Electrodes are easily replaced without tools

Get the latest information on our website, www.pondproshop.com and Facebook page. We will no longer publish a print version of this newsletter. Please note our Spring/Summer store hours; Tuesday thru Friday 9:00am-6:00pm and Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm. Our store number is 405-273-8363 if you have questions concerning products or classes.



Coupons for in-store use

Happy Koi Pond Kits 10% off!!



HAPPY KOI KITS

Coupon required. Valid through May 31, 2013

Coupon must be present for discount. Valid for retail store purchases only. **Not valid with any other discount**
Applies to Retail Store Pricing Only.



Coupons for in-store use

Biological Clarifier +

Crystal Clear Biological Clarifier + with activated barley works to remove sludge, organic materials, uneaten fish food and fish waste quickly and efficiently when used regularly.



20% off!!

Coupon required. Valid through May 31, 2013