

## Mike's Minutes

Well, I got my wish, didn't I. No rain in the immediate forecast. We can get some things done now can't we? No, it's too hot? You're never pleased. Just kidding. We know you'll be doing as much as you can early and late in the day. Remember, call us in advance if you're going to want a liner larger than a 40 x 40 so we can have it cut and ready for you. The store is short staffed this late in the season and it helps us stay ahead if we know ahead of time on big liners and underlay. We're also going to close October 24 and 25th to prepare for a big end of

season sale. Mark your calendars and watch for your October newsletter with more information.

As I'm writing this, many of you are either headed to the lake or gathering what you need to work around the house this Labor Day weekend. We'll be here Saturday, August 31 but closed Sunday and Monday as usual. As this officially signals the end of Summer, we'll expect cooler temps next week. Ha, ha. I won't bet on it. However, we will not expect to see anymore of you wearing white shoes, seersucker, or Panama hats (does anyone wear those anymore?) We here at Pond Pro Shop hope you all have a wonderfully relaxing weekend and a happy safe Labor Day. Be careful on the highways and byways.

I read an article recently on aeration in ponds and fish loss due to low levels of dissolved oxygen (DO). The article referenced a fish kill in a local pond and talked about the interaction of dissolved oxygen, algal blooms, aeration and fish load. It is almost certain the fish died as a result of low dissolved oxygen levels in the pond that were most likely due to



warm water temperatures and high algae growth; specifically suspended algae, or phytoplankton, which are the microscopic plants in the water that give it a green cast. (We sometimes call it single-cell algae). The recent warm, clear weather and elevated nutrients in the pond are ideal conditions for algae



growth. *Suspended algae increases dissolved oxygen during the day when they photosynthesize but remove oxygen at night when there is no sunlight and they respire or expire.* So what does this mean for you, the small pond owner? First and foremost, it means oxygen plays a larger role in the health of your pond than you might have thought in the past. Secondly, the relationship between the amount of water (to hold the oxygen), the aeration (maybe only supplied by a trickling waterfall) and the fish load (how much over 6" of fish per 100 gallons is your pond?) is a prime consideration at this time of year. A waterfall may be enough for your fish most of the time but may fall short during the 'dog' days of summer...think about adding an aerator of some sort. A submersible one is the best option so it will move the water from the bottom of the pond up to the surface allowing it to absorb valuable oxygen; but almost anything helps—a fountain, a waterfall, spraying water over the surface. Also, consider the italicized statement above concerning oxygen use by algae when applying certain chemicals. Algaecides really work (at least those that are EPA registered do) and because they are killing algae, which removes DO from the water as it does; algaecides are often blamed for the fish kill. I guess in a roundabout way that's true—but not literally. The product didn't kill the fish, what the product did killed the fish. So when do you treat with an algaecide to do the least harm? How about later in the day? Mornings should be when your pond holds the least amount of DO because of the fish and plants using it all night without its being replaced sufficiently so it seems to me that as the day progresses and photosynthesis occurs, DO builds up; so late in the afternoon or early evening is when your pond has the most. If you're going to zap it with an algaecide, that would be the time I'd choose. Enough—enough; Let's hope we're still not talking algae next month...Mike

## 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.

## SPECIAL NOTE

Effective immediately we have limited availability for large liners after 5pm and on Saturdays. We'll stock most sizes up to 40 x 40 but if you want larger, call ahead and let us know so we can have it cut. All sizes will still be available between 9 and 5pm daily, we just won't always have someone to cut larger sizes after 5 or on Saturdays...Mike



## 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.

Sept  
14th  
10:00am

### Pond Build

This will be our last pond build of the season. Come in and learn how to put together the pond of your dreams. We start with the hole already dug and go through the whole process step-by-step. During this class we will also show the installation of an OASE filter and bottom pump so you could have a hybrid pond with a beautiful waterfall and excellent external filtration.

Sept  
28th  
10:00am

### Pondless Build

This will be our last build of the season. If a waterfall cascading through your landscape is your dream, c'mon over and we'll share with you how to do it. We'll walk you through all the steps and also show you how to tune a waterfall and why the different sounds of the waterfall are so important to your overall enjoyment.

Oct  
12th  
10:00am

### Winterizing Your Pond

Find out what you need to do with your pond to get it and its inhabitants ready for colder weather. We'll discuss what to do with your fish, your plants, your filters and anything else you have questions about before temperatures drop.

### Our Lake Levi Clear Water Project

Here is the biggest pond in the display yard, Lake Levi, again. The picture on the front page is what it looked like when we started a project to clear it up. On Aug 29 in mid-afternoon, we installed an Oase BioTec 32000 gravity filter; Oase Bitron C 110 watt UV and an Oase Profinaut 7000 pump (you can now see the tubing running from the pump on the west end up to the filter on the east end where we are standing. On August 30 at approximately 3:00 the pond was treated with a flocculant to cause the floating debris to clump and sink. This picture was taken August 31 at approximately 2:30. There is already a big difference in the water clarity. Jay vacuumed the shelves this morning to remove some of the accumulated debris caused by the flocculant. Note how clearly you can see the rocks and fish now compared to the picture on the front page.

Get the latest information on our website, or Facebook page; [www.pondproshop.com](http://www.pondproshop.com) or [facebook.com/pond-pro-shop/](http://facebook.com/pond-pro-shop/). 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. To order online go to [www.pondliner.com](http://www.pondliner.com) or call 1-866-766-3548 to reach the internet call center.

### Premium Pond Nets

**20% off**

Leaves will start falling soon—cover your pond and stream now to save work in the Spring. Multiple sizes available.



Coupon Required. Valid through September 30, 2013

Coupons for in-store use ONLY

Coupon must be present for Discount where required. Valid for retail store purchases only. **Not valid with any other discount** Only the largest discount will apply.

### All Remaining Koi

**50% OFF**

We'll close the fish shed for the winter at the end of this month so come get'em while they last!



No Coupon required. While they last!