

Mike's Minutes

Where has this year gone? It seems only yesterday we were all worried about the algae blooms in our ponds and if we needed aerators to add oxygen to the water since it was so hot. Now we're looking at shallow water aerators or de-icers to keep openings in the ice to allow for gas transfer. One of the cautions for anyone with an aerator on the bottom of the pond is that it may cause water temps to drop throughout the pond as the cooler top water is

mixed with the warmer bottom water. It might be necessary to move the aerator to the shallowest part of the pond so it is not turning over the whole pond but keeps an opening in the ice.

If you netted your pond earlier to catch the falling leaves, be certain to remove the leaves as possible to keep the net from sagging down into the pond. If the leaves are in the water, even on top of the net, they will still begin to decompose and add unwanted organics to the water. Use a leaf blower to remove the dry ones and if you have supports under the net that may be all you need.



We get conflicting advice on feeding fish this time of the year. I've always been taught to stop feeding entirely at water temps below 55 degrees but have heard recently from some sources that if the food you are feeding is of a 'very high quality' you may feed limited quantities during the winter to help your koi grow and come out of the winter in better shape in the spring. I'm going to have to do some more research to determine what 'very high quality' means. In general, we know it means there is less filler since that is what the fish don't digest as well. I'll let you know as I learn more but for now I'm standing by what I've always said, let them nibble out of the pond if they feel the need—stop feeding at 55 degrees.

As you receive this we are heading into the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. We will be closed Thursday through Tuesday. I hope you have the opportunity to sit down with family and friends and share a meal. Many will not be able to either due to distance or duty, please remember them as you give thanks. I also want to thank all of you for your support here in the store during this past year, it means a lot to us. Sandy, Jay and I wish you and yours a very happy Thanksgiving.

....Mike

Tips and Tricks

The freezing weather may damage some of the equipment you are currently using in and around your pond. Ultraviolet lights that are installed externally may require you to drain the lines and put in a bypass so you can remove the light to keep it from freezing. The same may be true for pressurized external filters. Many customers feel safer removing the filter and installing a coupling in the tubing so the pump can still operate the waterfall during the winter. You can leave it buried as long as there is no water to freeze inside. Make certain the area around the UV light stays dry. If you leave the filter in the ground, be sure to check the UV light and quartz tube in the spring before startup.

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.

Water Garden Club members
 and military (Active or Retired)

receive a
10% discount

(If they remember to tell us up front!
 Not after they've already paid.)
 Valid for Pond Pro Shop purchases only

NEW Classes - SPRING/SUMMER 2015 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.

March 7th 2015 10:00am **First Class of the New Season Spring Startup**
 What do you need to know to get your pond ready for the Spring season and beyond. Bring your questions and we'll work on answers together. Start the year off right!

March 28th 2015 10:00am **Pond Filtration**
 Filtration, aeration, circulation. The big three of a healthy pond. We'll discuss various types of filtration and help you decide which is right for your pond.

April 11th 2015 10:00am **1st Pond Build!!!!!!!**
 Pond Builds this year will be different. We will feature a different type of equipment at each build. This one will highlight Savio equipment. Beginning to end it takes about 2 hours.

Container gardens come in all shapes and sizes...Start planning yours now.
 It will be Spring before you know it!!!



Get the latest information on our website or Facebook page; www.pondproshop.com or [facebook.com/pond-pro-shop/](https://www.facebook.com/pond-pro-shop/). **Please note our Winter store hours 11/1/2014: Wednesday thru Friday 9:00am-6:00pm and Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm. Closed Sunday-Monday-Tuesday. 405-273-8363**

15% off OneFix 15% off

OneFix will remove ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, and organic debris (dead leaves, uneaten fish food, fish waste, etc.) that cause water clarity problems. Use OneFix year-round, even in the winter to keep your pond crystal clear.



Coupon required, valid thru 12/31/2014

Plan for Winter!!
 Look at the store hours above. Call during inclement weather before driving out.

Valid for retail store purchases only. **Not valid with any other discount**

Only the largest discount will apply.

Cold Weather Food

Cold Weather formula is made with less protein and wheat germ so it is easier for fish to digest during colder weather. Perfect for Fall and Spring feeding.



15% off

Coupon required, valid thru 12/31/2014