

## Mike's Minutes

Well, by the time you receive this it will be 2015. I hope all your dreams came true in 2014 and if they didn't that you try them again for this year. If your dream includes a new pond, we'll have classes starting soon. Look at the box on the back page to see when the first pond building class is scheduled and mark it on your calendar. If that's not soon enough, I will be teaching a beginning pond building class at OSU-OKC on January 24th. Go to their web page for

more information: [www.osuokc.edu/tdc/pdf/BackyardPond.pdf](http://www.osuokc.edu/tdc/pdf/BackyardPond.pdf). There is a small charge for this paid directly to OSU-OKC. The class will be about two hours and they will provide a continental breakfast.

"Oh, the weather outside is frightful," is more than a line from a song—today it is a fact and will be for the next several days. We've fielded several phone calls already about preparing the pond for this cold spell. As always, our advice is to have a pond de-icer in place ready to be plugged in when Winter weather temps drop drastically as they are predicted to do



See the ice dam beginning to form around the driftwood and limbs?

over the next several days. It is important to keep a hole

open in the ice to allow gas to transfer from the pond water before it becomes toxic to the fish. Either a heater or an aerator will work although if you choose an aerator, we suggest you move it to a shallow shelf in the pond instead of at the bottom. That way you are not moving the warmer water from the bottom to the surface where it will be chilled and then returned to the bottom in a circular fashion. Your fish are cold blooded and are enjoying whatever warmer temps are near the bottom and might be shocked by the colder water. This is also the time when their immune systems are beginning to degrade and that allows parasites which reside in all ponds to invade. Pay attention to your fish when you have the chance (the ice never lasts too long in Oklahoma) and treat them as necessary. Some good resources for your koi health are [www.koicrisis.com](http://www.koicrisis.com) and [www.koivet.com](http://www.koivet.com). Remember, we are not veterinarians and cannot diagnose your fish's ailments. We do carry some basic products to help in the treatment. In the final analysis, it's all about the water. If you're not testing your pond on a regular basis, you run the risk of losing fish. You should have a thermometer and test kit on hand and use them regularly. It is disconcerting when customers tell us they have lost fish, and while we sympathize, we also realize that many of these deaths could have been avoided with some simple tests. An ounce of prevention as they say.

....Mike



This is what happens if you forget to drain your pot.

....Mike

### Tips and Tricks

While removing the Christmas lights from the house this year I had an epiphany. Why haven't I tied my Christmas lights, landscape lighting and waterfall lighting all into the same system so they come on automatically at dusk and go off automatically 2,4 or 6 hours later? Many transformers have the ability to power both 12 volt and 110 volt at the same time. We have lights for the water features and landscape lighting as well and with proper planning they can all be tied together (along with your holiday decorations).

## Water Garden Club Meetings

Tulsa 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30pm Tulsa Garden Ctr  
[www.gcwgs.com](http://www.gcwgs.com) for more info  
 OKC 1st Tuesday @ 7:00pm NW Church of Christ  
[www.wgso.org](http://www.wgso.org) for more info  
 Stillwater 3rd Monday @ 7:00pm  
[www.stillwaterwatergardens.org](http://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

## STRING ALGAE

If you are experiencing some string algae growth this time of year it may simply be a function of your biofilter beginning to lose effectiveness. As the water temperatures drop below 40 degrees, many of the bacteria we need to help remove nutrient from the water begin to slow down and even die off. Nutrient then builds up because there are organics we didn't get removed, like leaves and dead plants, and that added to the small amounts of fish waste still be produced are providing food for the algae to grow on. It shouldn't be a big problem and will eventually correct itself as the pond balances for the Winter or you can remove it by hand if it bothers you.



## 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.

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

**15% off De-Icer 15% off**

Pond de-icers will help keep a hole in the ice in order to allow gas transfer. Without the hole, toxic gases will be trapped under the surface and may build up to a point where they are harmful to your fish. Several sizes available.



Coupon required, valid thru 1/31/2015

**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 1/31/2015