

Mike's Minutes

Closing in on colder weather. I can't say that I'm ready...I hate the cold...but these 65 degree nights have sure been nice and the yard crew sure are enjoying the 80 degree days instead of the 100's we had there for a while.

As things start going south (literally and figuratively) for the Winter, it's time for you to start thinking of winterizing your pond and taking care of its inhabitants.

First, let's talk about plants. When leaves and stalks start yellowing and drooping, remove them from the pond. If you're thinking about netting over the top you may have to think about cutting tall plants like cattails, umbrella palms and rushes down now while you can still get in the pond to do it and remove all the cuttings. Probably after the first freeze, you'll lose all your lily pads and they'll be ready to cut back and if potted, moved to the lowest level of the pond. Tropical plants may be moved indoors to winter over or treated as annuals and added to the compost pile to be replaced next year.

Now fish. If your pond is going to run all winter, leave the fish in there as long as it is 24" or greater in depth. Water temps here are ranging from 70 in the smaller ponds to 74/75 in the larger. We're still feeding a high quality food and will continue until water temps hit 65 when we will change to a cold weather specific food. The cold weather formula is lower in protein (around 32% vs. 36/37%). At water temperatures of 55 we will quit feeding altogether. You also must insure a hole is open in the surface as ice occurs to allow for gas transfer. This may be accomplished through use of a deicer or aerator. Some waterfalls provide enough flow that there is no danger of a solid freeze.



We are assembling the frame for the net over the Renaissance pond. We'll put the net on it soon as leaves are already beginning to fall.

Finally, equipment. Most everything is meant to be left in place but you should make certain pressurized filters not buried or otherwise protected are winterized following the manufacturer's directions. You'll want to make sure your skimmers are cleaned regularly this time of year as the leaves will clog them quickly and starve your pump if you're not diligent. Many ponders like to do a good cleaning this time of year to help the pond ecosystem winter over better. The more work you do now removing leaves, debris, plant materials and waste, the less you'll have to do in the spring. In our part of the country it's almost time to turn off, remove and clean UV lights and store them safely for the winter. There shouldn't be

much algae growing as the water cools down. If your light is installed in such a way that you can't remove it, at least unplug it now and winterize it as best you can to keep it from freezing and breaking ...Mike

Water Garden Club Meetings

Tulsa 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30pm Tulsa Garden Ctr
www.gcwgs.com for more info
 OKC 1st Tuesday @ 7:00pm NW Church of Christ
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.

Military (Active or Retired) and Water Garden Club members

**receive a
10% discount**

(If you remember to tell us up front!
 Not after you've already paid.)

Valid for Pond Pro Shop purchases only

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.

October 10th 2015 10:00am **Pond Build**
 We will be using the Atlantic Water Gardens equipment for this next build. If you're considering a pond in your yard, come watch and learn. You'll be glad you did!

October 24th 2015 10:00am **Winterizing**
 Lots of living things and expensive equipment in your pond...what do you need to do for them to survive the winter? We'll go over all you need to do and answer all your questions.

That was the last class of the 2015 season. We appreciate all of you who attended and bought pond supplies on class days. If we didn't cover something you wanted this year, let us know and we'll try to work it in for 2016.

If you have an idea for a class, please share it

Great class, hope you enjoyed it



Get the latest information on our Facebook page. [Facebook.com/pages/Pond-Pro-Shop](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pond-Pro-Shop) **Please note: We are on Summer store hours, open : Tuesday thru Friday 9:00am-6:00pm and Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm. Closed Sunday-Monday. Phone 405-273-8363 in the event of inclement weather.**

Premium Nets

Leaves will start falling soon. Protect your pond or stream with one of these premium nets. They'll stop anything down to 1/8 inch. Bound edges with grommets every 2 foot allow you to stake or tie the net down to a support structure.



15% off

Coupon required, valid through 10/31.

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

Only the largest discount will apply.

Build a pond today!
 We'll show you how!

Pond De-icers

K-H Pond De-icers will keep a hole open in the ice to allow gas transfer. Otherwise the noxious gases from decomposing organic materials will be detrimental to your fish.



15% off

Coupon required. Valid through October 31st